

Introduction to Genealogy Basics

January 18, 2022

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Sponsored by Laguna Woods PC Club

Welcome

This course will be a very brief overview of genealogy, best practices, and resources.



Getting Started

Disclaimer: There is not a “one size fits all” in genealogy. We all have unique reasons and goals for our family research.



Steps to get ready-

Review what you already know and have.

Gather memorabilia, photos, letters, records, scrap books, etc.

Interview family members about their lives and memories.

What do you want to discover?

What is your research goal?

Organize



1. Choose a filing system where you can locate things when you need it.

Manual filing system?

Digital filing system?

Both?

2. Include the source of all information that you collect.
3. Stay focused on your goal. It is best practice to complete a goal before you go on to the next. Unfocused research leads to going down a “rabbit hole” without tangible results.

Citations have 4 descriptors:



Author (**Who**)

Title (**What**)

Publisher (**When**)

Locator (**Where**)

Annotations (optional)— these are mostly for your conclusions or notes to yourself

Take away: Citations provide information for you (or others) to find the document again.

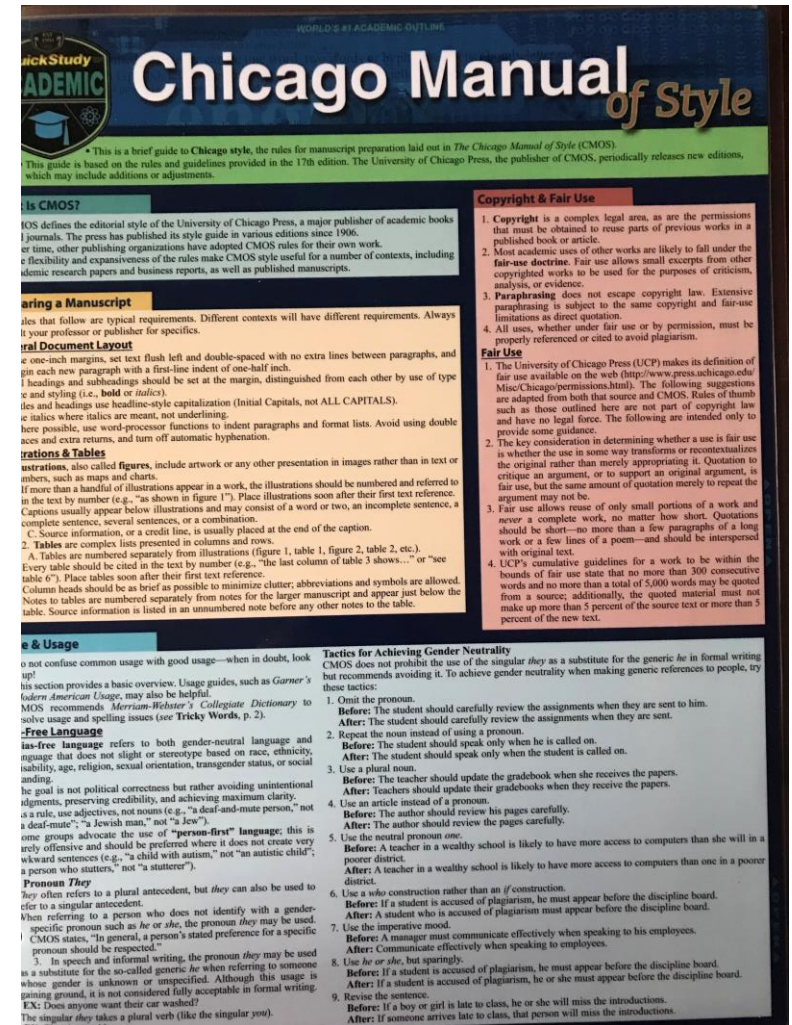
Citation Formats

APA – American Psychological Association

CMOS - Chicago Manual of Style

(CMOS is the most popular format for genealogy publications.)

MLA - Modern Language Association



CMOS has different formats for different types of publications and sources.

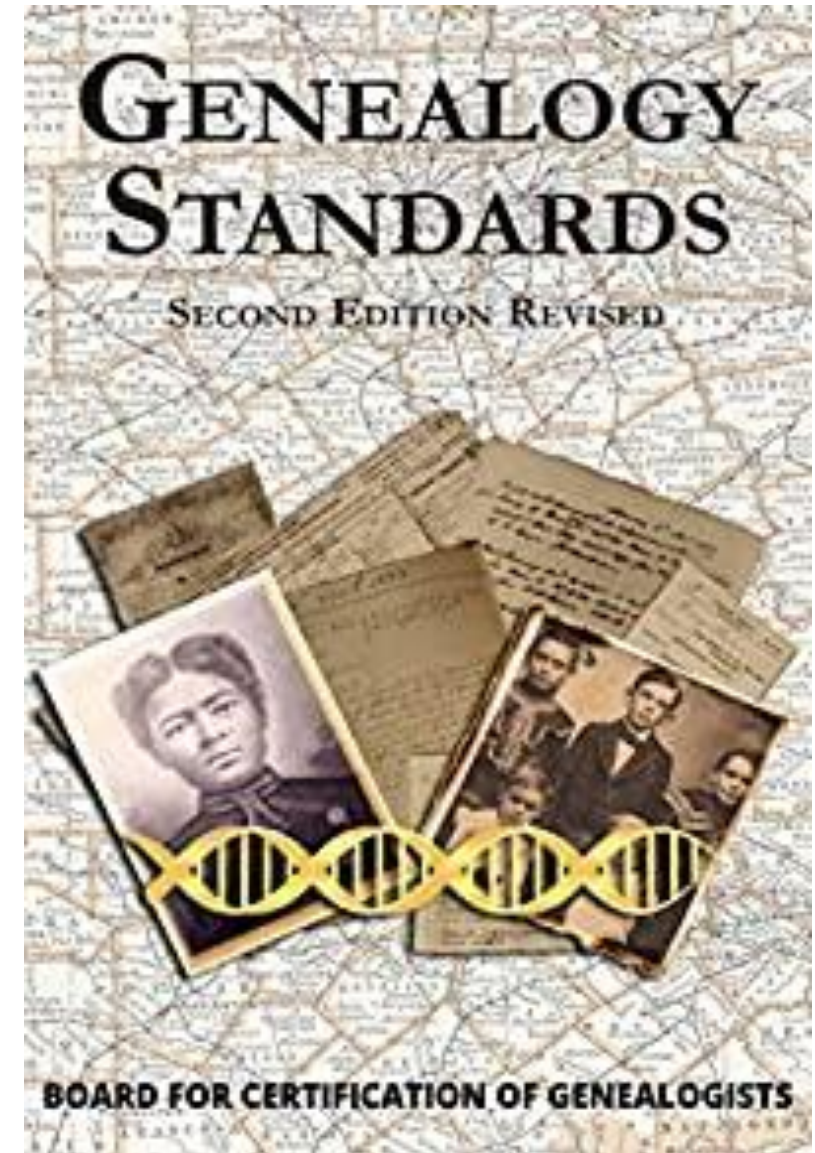
A traditional citation has four descriptors in the following order: Author, **Title**, Publisher, Locator. Or in greater detail: Author(s), Article Title, Publication title, (Publisher place, Publisher name, Year published), Page number(s).

Take away: whichever format you decide to use - be consistent.

Genealogy Proof Standard (GPS)

- Reasonably exhaustive research was conducted.
- Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.
- Evidence is reliable
- Contradictory evidence is resolved.
- Conclusions are coherently presented.

Take away: Research, cite sources, review the evidence and come to conclusion.



Genealogy is **fact based not creative writing**. You will be able to add creativity to the facts later, for example if we wanted to write about the hardships that our third great grandmother endured sailing to a foreign land to start a new life.

Sources:

Primary

Secondary

Indeterminable

Primary – Records that require accurate information, such as vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce, military, and other legal documents).

Secondary – are documents and records that are not created at the time an event occurred (letters, oral histories, family history books).

Indeterminable – unknown informant and unknown source (keep handy it may be helpful later)



Sources and Citations take aways:

Never blindly “copy” someone else’s tree as proof! Use other’s trees as a hint that you need to research.

A citation is the source that you researched and verified. Do not use a citation that someone else used without verifying the information or document. An unverified citation is hearsay. For example, you got your grandfather’s birthdate from a cousin who told you it is from his birth certificate. If you have not seen the birth certificate, don’t use birth certificate as a citation, instead document your cousin as the source for the information.



Sources: Original Derived

Original records – examples, handwritten will, photographs, baptism in church records, diary, letters, postcards. Genealogist will usually accept photocopies of original document to be the same as an original record.

Derivative records – are compiled collections, transcription of a will, a database of collected information. Be aware that these records may contain typos, omissions, or misinterpretations. It is best practice if you review the original record.

Online Databases

Free: Google, Family Search, state archives, libraries, National Archives

Behind a pay wall: Ancestry, My Heritage, Find My Past, Lineage Societies (Daughters of the American Revolution, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva) to name just a few.

Note: A list of reliable database links are on your course handout.

Online Databases¶

Family Search (Free) · www.familysearch.org · This site is the online data of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. · Their website is expansive and totally free. · You need to register. ¶

Ancestry · www.ancestry.com · (Limited free access. · Annual subscriptions range from \$99.00 to \$298.00). · New subscribers are eligible for discounted subscriptions. · More than three million paying subscribers across its core Ancestry websites with over 20 billion records and has more than 15 million people in the AncestryDNA network (2019). · Newspaper.com and Fold3.com are included in All-Access level. ¶

Fold3 · www.fold3.com (owned by Ancestry.com) · subscription required). · It has U.S. military records, (including Revolutionary War and Civil War pensions), but it also has other files, for instance FBI records and U.S. naturalization records. ¶

Find My Past (\$179.00) · www.findmypast.com · This website is UK focused. · It is a standalone company but it has partnered with [LivingDNA](http://www.livingdna.com) website (\$89.00). ¶

Geneanet · <https://en.geneanet.org/> · offers a variety of genealogy record published by researchers, genealogy societies, commercial companies, and online family trees. ¶

Genealogy Books online · www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/genealogy-books-online ¶

Find A Grave · www.findagrave.com · Cemetery locations, memorials, and some entries have obituaries and bits of family history. · (Warning, not all information is correct.) ¶

GenealogyBank · www.GenealogyBank.com · subscription (7 day free trial) · historical newspapers (from 1690-today), historical documents, historical obituaries collection and the Social Security Death Index ¶

Ellis Island · www.ellisland.org · From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island was America's largest and most active immigration station, where over 12 million immigrants were processed. · **Castle Garden** · www.castlegarden.org was the first American

Focused Research

1. Determine what you need and where you might find the information
2. Locate and search the record or source
3. Analyze and evaluate
4. Record what you find (or don't find)
5. Analyze and evaluate the new information
6. Identify gaps and repeat # 1 (above)

(3)

Research Log

← Ancestor: William FRAZIER (1826-1881) Researcher: G. David Dilts

Date	PLACE OF RESEARCH Mailing Address	PURPOSE Seeking what?	CALL NUMBER	SOURCE. Books: Author, title, publication place, publisher, publ. date, page(s). Periodicals: + vol., date, issue #.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	RESULTS
8 May 2001	Robert G. FRAZIER Telephone 801-359-9301	* Robert P.		Robert G. Frazier, Wichita, Kans, 8 May 2001, telephone conversation with G. David Dilts, Salt Lake City, Utah		nil
11 May 2001	Family History Library 35 N West Temple St. SLC UT 84150-3400	OO Wm. FRAZIER Marg. DENTON		Ancestral File [online database] (Salt Lake City: Geneal. Soc. of Utah, 1998). William FRAZIER 1826	William FRAZIER 1826-1881 8	* OO + & family of Wm.
11 May 2001	"	OO Wm. FRAZIER Nancy McCLURE		International Gen. Index [online database] (Salt Lake City: Gen. Soc. of Utah, 1993, 2000). North America 2000 Addendum, Marr. Search	William FRAZIER 1826-1881 9	OO of Wm. & Nancy
	"	Wm. FRAZIER family group	1274092	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogical Society, Family Group Records Collection, Archives Section 1942-1999. (LC: G5U, 1977.)		
1 Jun 2001	"	1860 age of Robert	976.8 X225 1860 1597916 it. 3	Byron Sistler, 1860 Census - Tennessee. (Nashville: Byron Sistler & Assoc., 1981-1982), v. 2, p. 244	William FRAZIER 1826-1881 10	census: Robert in 1860
"	"	"	805258	United States. Census Office, 8th Census, 1860. Tennessee, 1860 Federal Census: Population Schedules. (Washington: National Archives, 1950, 1967.) 2nd filming. Jefferson County, p. 274	William FRAZIER 1826-1881 11	Wm.'s family including Robt. P.
Question: Were any children born between James 1863 & Liz 1870?						
Suggestion: Look in the 1870 census of Tennessee for the answer.						
1 Jun 2001	"	Liz's family	976.8924 1870	Estle Pershing Muncy, People and Places of Jefferson County, Tennessee		nil

Etiquette



- Do NOT publish information about living people in an online tree.
- Do not publish copyrighted material.
- Send respectful emails and messages to other family researchers (or DNA matches). Share a few enticing bits of your family history.
- Give credit to others' information or their product.
- Ask for help from other family history researchers, genealogist typically love to share with others.



TIPS

- Format the date by spelling the month or using a three-letter abbreviation. 25 Jul 1977
- Use birth names of males and females. If the birth name unknown, it is common practice to leave it blank or enter 5 underscores.
- Document locations without abbreviations. Write full name of the city, county/parish/, state (don't use postal codes). It is okay to use the country abbreviation. Pettus, Bee, Texas, USA
- Search engines: Try less information; the minimum required is a name, date, location (approximation is okay)
- Familiarize yourself with abbreviations and nicknames that you will encounter in genealogy.
- Take classes, watch videos, follow bloggers, join local and national genealogy societies, and attend conferences.
- Review how to use search engines on document repository websites for optimal results. Each website seems to have slightly different requirements.

Does the search engine allow wild cards, such as * and ?

Wild card symbols

Ancestry® uses the asterisk (*) and the question mark (?) as wild cards. An **asterisk (*)** represents zero to five characters. If you wanted to search for different spellings of the name *Matthew* (like *Mathew* and *Matthiu*), you could do a wild card search that would find each different ending: *Mat**.

A **question mark (?)** represents one character. If you didn't know whether a name were spelled *Nielson* or *Nielsen*, you could do a search for the name using a wild card where the unknown letter goes: *Niels?n*.

Which Family Tree Software is best?

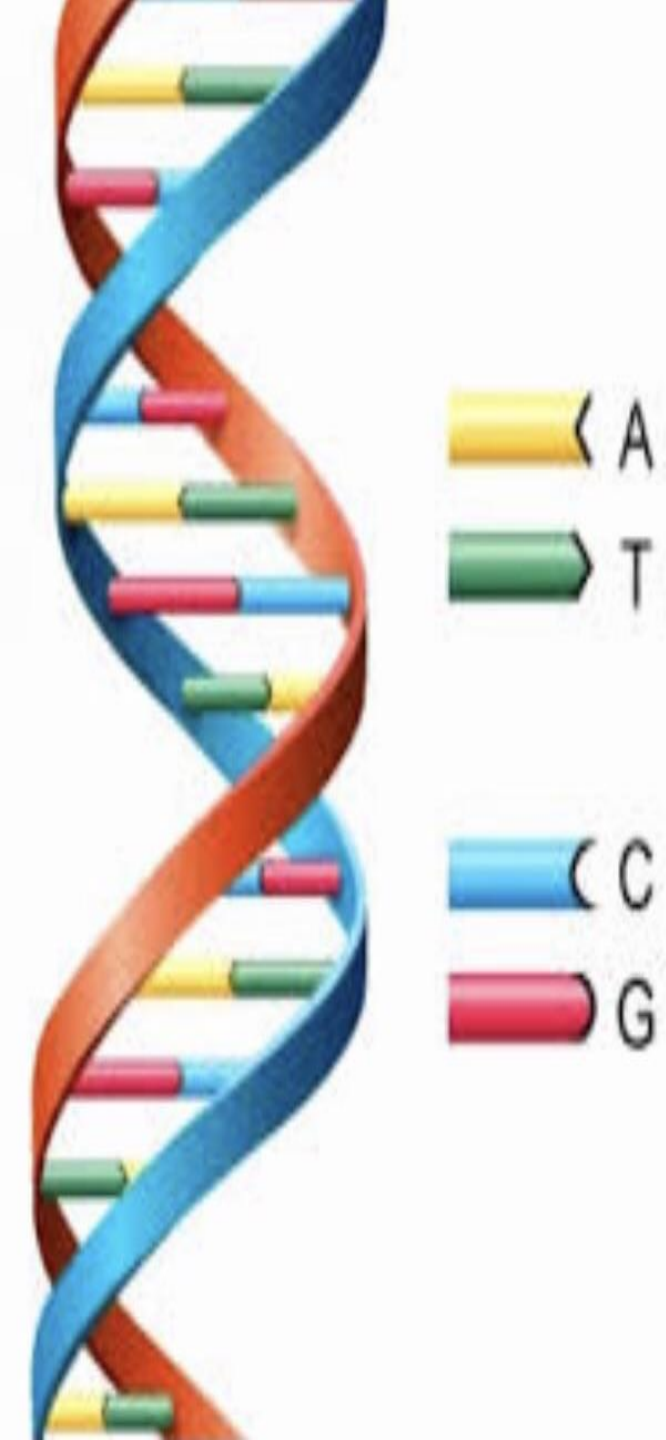


The best one for you will depend on your goals, budget, and patience.

Try demos and free trials.

Popular vendors are listed on your handout.

The next few slides will give you a glimpse of genealogy's newest tool - DNA.



A very brief overview of Genetic Genealogy

DNA is a very effective
genealogy tool for adoptees
and for breaking through
brick walls in your family tree.

Genetic genealogy is a team sport!

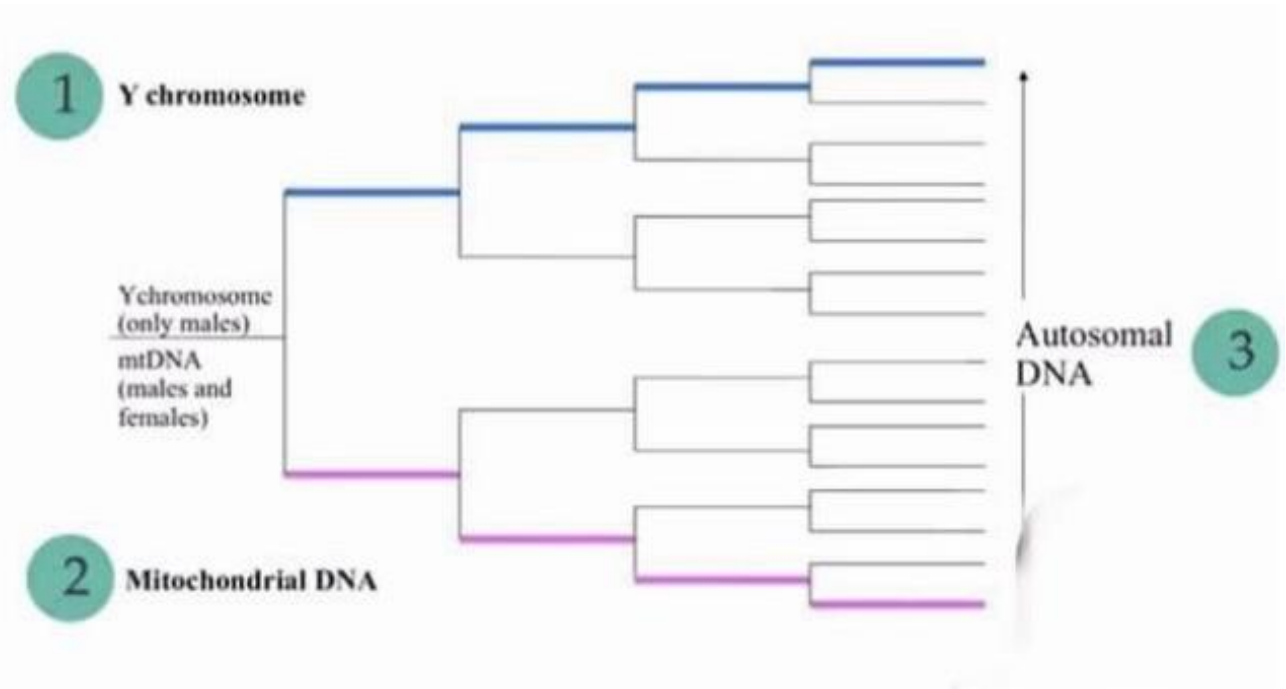
If interested, build your team by asking parents, aunts, uncles, and/or 1st or 2nd cousins to test. Relatives that are known to you will enable sorting your many DNA matches to the correct branch in your family tree.

Adoptees must work with their closest DNA matches.

There are volunteer DNA detectives and many DNA tools available to help!

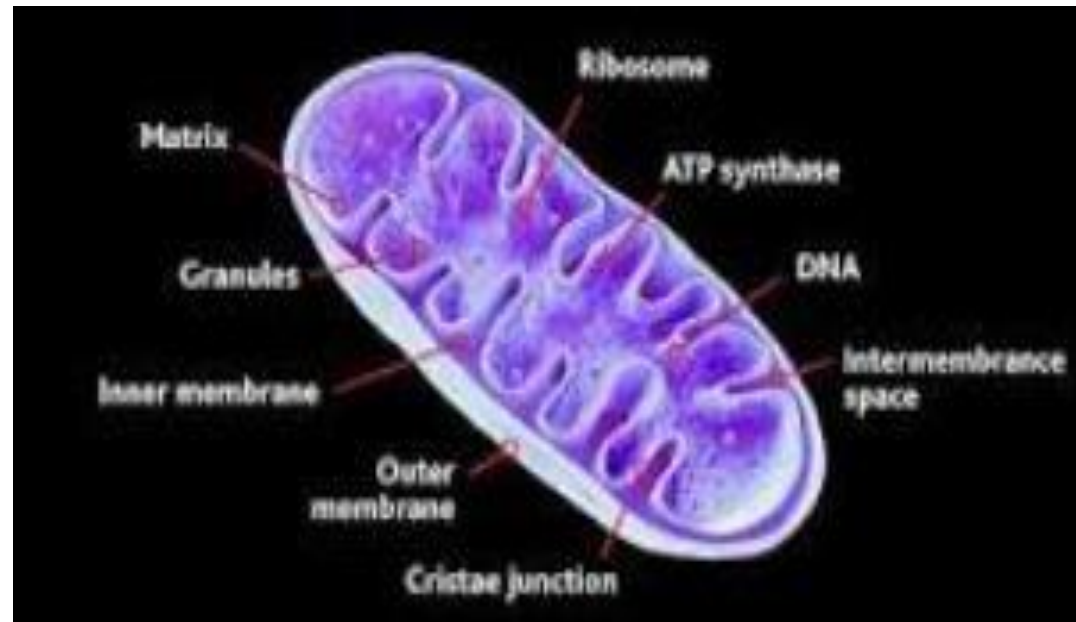
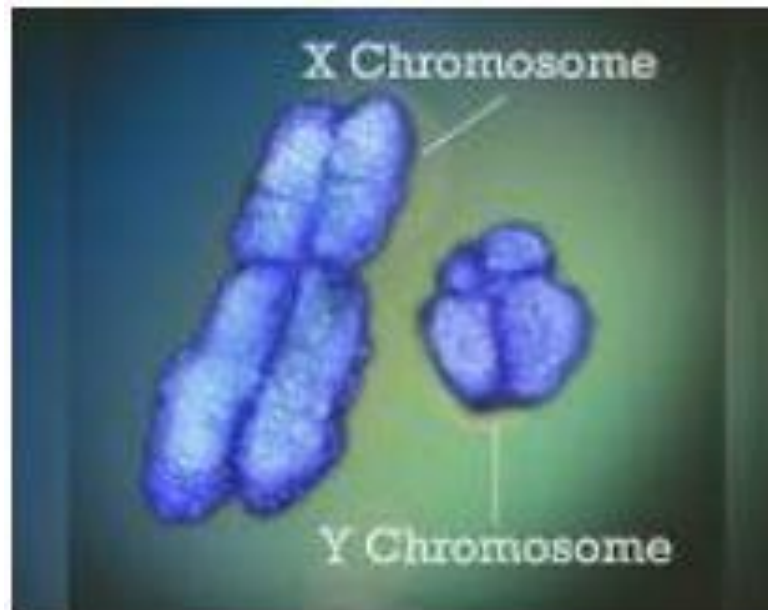
Genetic Genealogy uses 4 Types of DNA

1. **Y DNA** follows the paternal line. It is passed from father to son, father to son, and so on.
2. **Mitochondrial DNA** follows the maternal line and is passed from mother to daughter and son. Only females can pass it to the next generation; sons do not.
3. **Autosomal DNA** is all the bits and pieces that can be passed down from ALL our grandparents going back 5 to 7 generations.
4. **X chromosome** is a sex chromosome that is passed along like autosomal DNA to both males and females. A male inherits X from his mother. A female inherits one X from her mother and one from her father.



Confusion Alert! Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and X chromosome are two different types of DNA.

The two types of DNA are confusing because the individuals (aka females) who contribute mitochondrial DNA are also some of the ancestors who can contribute an X chromosome to either males or females.

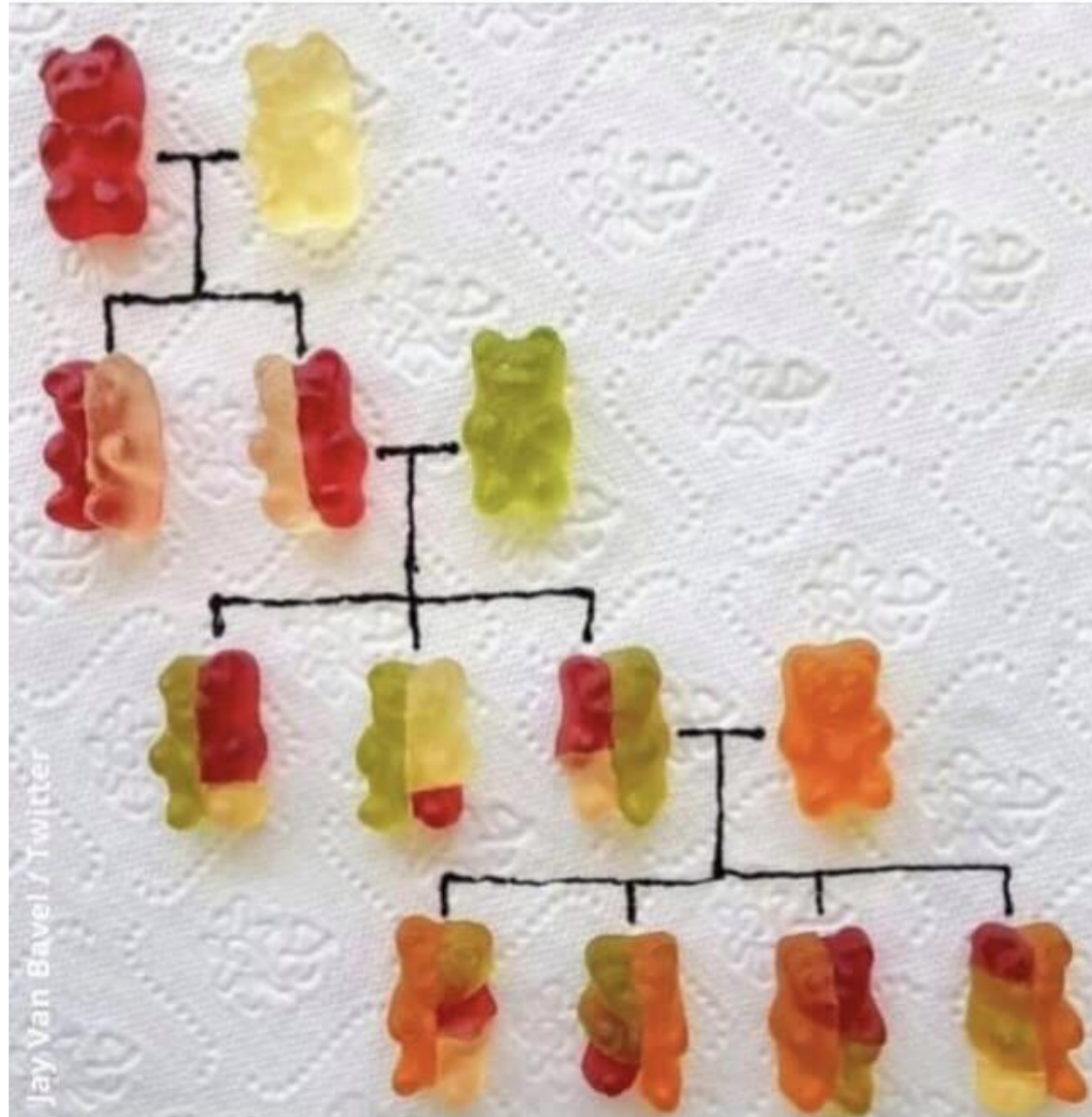


AUTOSOMAL DNA

We get 50% of our autosomal DNA from each parent. It is random thus you are not cloned copies of your siblings. What you get from your grandparents varies, but to keep it simple, you get 25% from each grandparent, 12.5% from each great-grandparent, and so on until the amount is no longer reliable for matching your distant DNA cousins.

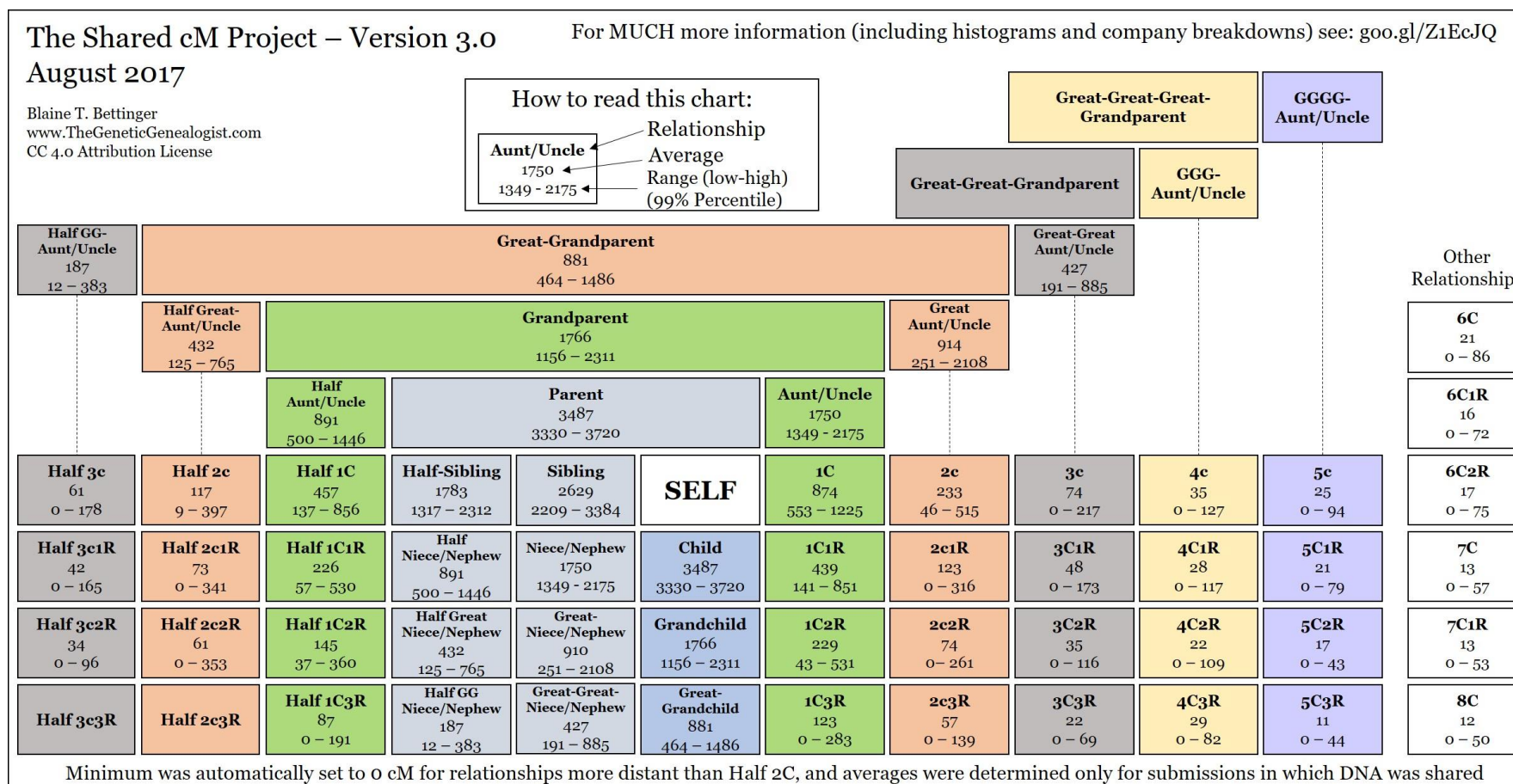
Generally autosomal DNA washes out after 6 to 7 generations.

DNA for Gummies



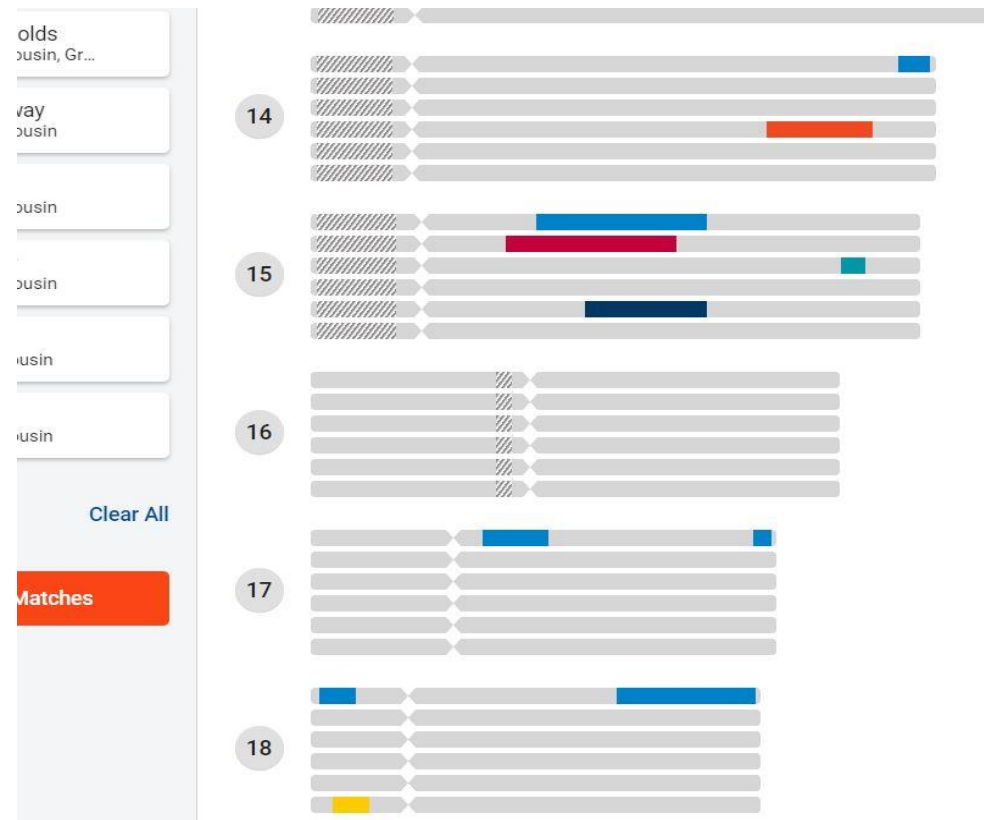
This DNA tool is the Shared cM Project program where you enter the amount of DNA that is shared with a DNA match and the program provides the most likely relationships. For example, if it is predicted that you are 4th cousins, you share a set of 3rd great grandparents.

<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>



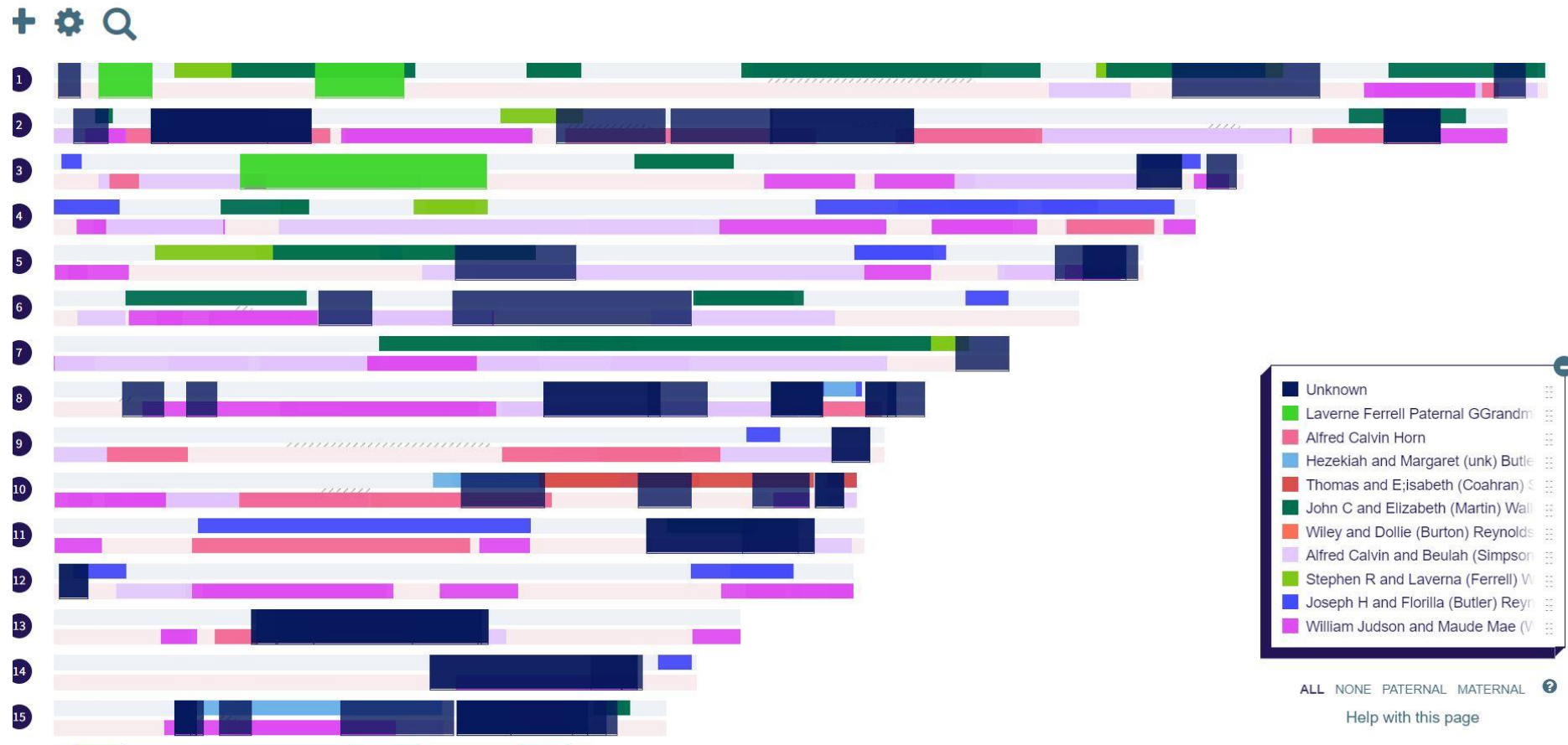
Another DNA Tool is the Chromosome Browser. This tool allows you to see which chromosomes segments you share with your DNA matches. You are in luck if a match overlaps a known relatives DNA.

<https://ftdnacom/>



This tool is called DNA Painter. You can attribute DNA to your ancestors by pasting known DNA cousins' segments to the grandparents that you have in common. Eventually you will be able to overlay unknown cousins and the tool shows which grandparents passed on the DNA segment(s).

<https://dnapainter.com/>



In summary - Genetic genealogy gives genealogists a means to check or supplement their genealogy results with information obtained via DNA testing. It is always used in combination with age-old traditional genealogy.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- RootsTech – the registration link is at the bottom of page 3 on your handout.
- There are several other events hosted by local Genealogical Societies. (see flyers)
- 1950 Census will be released in April 2022

FamilySearch announces RootsTech Connect 2022 will be entirely virtual and free




rootstech
CONNECT

Discover Your Story
Join the world's largest
online celebration of family

3-5 March 2022 | rootstech.org

Hosted by
 FamilySearch

Southern California Genealogical Society

jamboree 2022

Three Online Virtual Conferences

 August 19 – 20	 August 22 – 24	 August 26 – 27
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Home

Genetic Genealogy 2022

STAY TUNED!
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 7, 2022



Save the **DATE!** **jamboree 2022**
August 19th – 27th



Orange County California Genealogical Society

Orange County California Genealogical Society announces its
9th Annual Genealogy BASH Seminar
featuring **D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS**
Saturday March 5, 2022
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM PDT

Virtual Seminar includes Four Live Presentations with Q&A and a chance for Door Prizes!

Join Orange County California Genealogical Society ("OCCGS") and genealogy enthusiasts from around the world as OCCGS presents our **9th Annual Genealogy BASH Seminar** with author and genealogy expert **D. Joshua Taylor, MS, MLS**.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/occcgs-9th-annual-bash-2022-with-d-joshua-taylor-ma-mls-registration-246796975397>

FEES

\$25 for OCCGS Members

\$35 for Non-Members

\$57 Includes One Year OCCGS Membership

REGISTRATION TIMELINE

Saturday January 15, 2022: BASH 2022 Registration Opens

Friday March 4, 2022 10pm: Last Day for Registration (unless sold out sooner)

Learn more about our **9th Annual Genealogy BASH 2022 with D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS** by visiting our website at <https://occcgs.com> or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OCCgenealogy

We hope to "see" you at the BASH!



SOCCGS 6th Annual Research Trip Family History Library — Salt Lake City March 20-27, 2022

Reservations are now open for our 2022 trip

Join us for our sixth annual week-long research trip to the Family History Library. After a two-year delay due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to announce that our annual research trip is back on track!

Seven nights at the Salt Lake Plaza hotel (next door to the Family History Library). Full details are posted in a flyer on the SOCCGS website.

Both Single and Double room accommodations are available with pricing for Standard or Deluxe room (see flyer for details – [Salt Lake City Trip 2022 - Reservation Form \(Rev. 1\)](#)).

You must be a SOCCGS member to participate in the trip.

To make a reservation, download the reservation form ([Salt Lake City Trip 2022 - Reservation Form \(Rev. 1\)](#)) from the SOCCGS website and submit your reservation form with a check for \$100 deposit per person or make your deposit with Paypal

2022 Salt Lake City Trip Deposit - 100.00 USD

Please email suggestions for
future topics and workshops to
nancywallander@hotmail.com

Thank you for your participation